

**FACULTY MEETING
SCIENCE, ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY**

Minutes of the Faculty Meeting held at 2.00pm on **Tuesday 14 November 2006** by video-link from Room B102 in Hobart, Room L023 in Launceston and Room B119 in Burnie.

MINUTES

PRESENT

Professor J. Reid (Dean and Chair), Dr C. Bolch, Dr C. Burke, Dr M. Cameron-Jones, Dr J. Dermoudy, Professor J. Dickey, Ms A. Edwards, Professor L. Forbes, A/Prof G. Halleagraff, Mrs M. Hazelwood, A/Prof S. Jones, Dr R. Kellaway, Mr M. Keenan, Dr A. Kelarev, Dr P. Lane, Dr D.J.H. Lewis, Prof C. Lueg, Prof H. McCallum Prof D McNeil, Dr K. Michael, Ms J. Mollison, Dr N. Moltschaniwskyj, Dr J. Purser, A/Prof A. Richardson, Dr A. Seen, A/Prof R. White and A/Prof B. Yates.

Mr W. Goninon and Ms N. Oliveira (Secretary) were also present.

The Dean welcomed both Professors McCallum (Zoology) and McNeil (Agricultural Science) to their first Faculty Meeting.

1. APOLOGIES

Mr R. Anders, Prof C. Buxton, Prof C. Carter, Prof Y. Choi, Dr S. Ellingsen, Dr J. Ellison, Prof B. Gemmell, Dr J. Jabour, Mrs C. Jones, Dr A. Koutoulis, Dr B. Leon de la Barr, Prof B. Mapstone, Dr F. Mashiri, A/Prof T. Ross, Dr D. Russell, Dr S. Shabala, Mrs A. Tyson, Prof F. Vanclay.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2006, were taken as read and confirmed.

3. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

No items of other business were raised.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING

Nil.

5. DEAN'S REPORT

The Dean reported on a number of matters including:

2007 Faculty Budget

The Dean provided an overview of the 2007 Faculty Budget explaining in detail how the final budget allocations for each School were achieved. The Faculty *resolved* to note the proposed 2007 Budget.

2007 Applications

2007 application numbers appear very positive for the University with significant increases in Tasmanian Year 12 (12.8%) and interstate Year 12 applications

(149.3%). It was believed the upward trend in applications was attributable to the introduction of the facility to apply on-line; withdrawal from VTAC and the turn around in Year 12 Tasmanian numbers.

It was also noted that there were some positive increases for particular courses – BSc (H) 96 to 125; BEnvDes (L) 95 to 116; BE (H) 69 to 106; BMarSc 27 to 37 and BComp (I) 17 to 32. Applications for BComp (H), BNEWS and BEnvSc have not increased.

The Faculty *resolved* to receive the report.

Committee for University Structures and Process (CUSP)

A report from CUSP – a committee established by the Vice-Chancellor to investigate issues of restructuring – was received at the last meeting of Academic Senate (3 November 2006) and would be referred to faculties for comment. The Dean reported that the first question which had been considered by CUSP was “*The optimal number of Faculties, with consideration of the continuation (or other structural arrangements) for single-school Faculties.*”

The question, it was noted, had taken into account the following imperatives:

- Foster collaborative teaching and research
- Increase administrative and teaching efficiency
- Ensure fairness and equitable representation in University decision-making
- Align with the proposed restructuring plan to devolve some corporate duties to the Deans (i.e. QA, community engagement, staffing, international, technology transfer and student liaison).
- Maintain the distribution of senior academic leadership across the state
- Foster effective cooperation and collaboration across the institution

and that certain conditions would need to be satisfied if existing Faculties were to be combined:

- Budgetary transparency
- Disciplinary/professional degree autonomy
- Equitable leadership arrangements
- Flexibility in use of title of “Dean” (especially for the purpose of representation to external professional bodies)
- Appropriate transitional arrangements (possibly alternating Deans, Co Deans, Dean/Deputy arrangements for example)

It was noted that CUSP was supportive of a Four Faculties model in which the Faculty of Business and the Faculty of Law would combine to form the Faculty of Business & Law and the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Education would combine to form the Faculty of Arts & Education. It was also noted that a Divisional Model had also been mooted by CUSP. The Dean stated openly that he was not in favour of a divisional model because it would introduce another level of administration and it would further divorce Schools from senior management.

After much discussion, the Faculty *resolved*:

1. To endorse the Four Faculties model as foreshadowed by CUSP (carried unanimously). The new Faculty combinations, it was noted, were relatively common around Australia.
2. To strongly oppose the Divisional model. As a small university, it was felt that we should have short pathways from Schools to Senior Management.

Marine and Antarctic Institute (MAI)

The Dean outlined both the steps and reasons which had led to the development of a proposal for the establishment of a Marine and Antarctic Institute, noting that implementation plans had been presented to the last meeting of Academic Senate (3 November 2006). He also provided an overview of the proposed structure for the Institute noting that the elements were already in existence. For more detail, members were invited to read the report available in the Academic Senate papers.

Discussion followed and covered matters such as infrastructure plans, the undesirability for internal competition between Schools and Institutes and the relationship that the Institute might have with the AMC.

It was *resolved* to note the development of a Marine and Antarctic institute.

6. FACULTY TEACHING & LEARNING COMMITTEE

The Associate Dean, Associate Professor Rob White, before reporting on the proposal to simplify undergraduate awards and degree specifications which had been recently considered by the Academic Senate, foreshadowed the following motion: *“That the Faculty supports the development of the outlined simplified structures for all undergraduate degree programs offered by the University”*.

By way of background, it was noted that a Course Structures Working Party, of which Associate Professor Rob White was a member, had been established to recommend on the standardisation and simplification of course structures and rules to support: breadth of study in the first year; the portability of completed units between courses; student self-management of their enrolment and academic progress and the subsequent rationalisation of courses and units.

Associate Professor White reported that the Working Party was proposing 3 degree types - general and specialist 3-year bachelor degrees and 4-year specialist bachelor degrees - requiring only three sets of specifications.

It was noted that the common 3 year bachelor degree structure on which the other degree types are based, would involve the following elements:

- Completion of 24 units.
- Units structured with an EFTSL of 12.5% with a full-time load expectation of 8 units per year.

- Progression through units with increasing levels of complexity and academic attainment (viz. Introductory, Intermediate and Advanced). There will be no cross level units (i.e. 200/300 or 300/400).
- A minimum number of units required at each level - introductory (8 units), intermediate (6 units) and advanced levels (6 units).
- A 3 year bachelor award would need to contain at least one major defined by the faculty responsible for the course.
- A major is defined as a sequence of study in a discipline or specialisation within a discipline with a minimum successful completion of 2 units at introductory level, 2 units at the intermediate level and 4 units at the advanced level.

The three-year specialised degree would require two majors. For the general degree, 16 of the 24 units would need to be from within the area of the degree but 8 units would be 'free choice' units. For the specialist degree, 16 of the 24 units would be from within the specialist area (i.e. 2-majors) and include 1 minor consisting of 4 units and 4 elective units. The structure of the four-year specialist degree would be the same as for the three-year specialist degree but it would include a further 8 advanced level units. It was noted that all degrees would allow for electives and that, schools and faculties would develop specimen courses to guide students but the free choice units could not be prescribed.

Following discussion of the proposed common structure for Bachelor degrees, it was *resolved* to support the proposal, in principle, but to refer the matter to Schools so that they could provide feedback to the first meeting of the FTLC in 2007.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

Nil.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be incorporated into the Faculty Assessment Meeting scheduled for Friday 24 November 2006. Members wishing to raise any matters are asked to provide the Dean with advanced notice.